



Consumer Guide Call Before You Dig



Consumer Help Line
1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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Call Before You Dig: It's the Law!

Digging 12 inches or more?

The "Call Before You Dig" law, RCW 19.122 requires anyone digging 12 inches or more into the ground to call 811 or 1-800-242-5555 at least two business days before they start digging to request a FREE underground utility locate.

What trouble can you dig into?

Dig without calling 2 days in advance:

Pay \$1,000 fine

Dig without calling and damage a utility:

Pay \$10,000 fine and triple the repair costs

Dig within 35 feet of a large pipeline without calling:

Pay \$1,000 fine and/or 30 days in jail

Dig without calling and damage a large pipeline:

Pay \$10,000 fine, triple repair costs, and spend 30 days in jail



One Call To Protect It All

Underground systems that carry essential services such as natural gas, electricity, water and telecommunications are vulnerable to damage if struck by a shovel.

The law requires you to call 811 and request an underground utility locate at least two business days before you plan to dig more than 12 inches into the ground.

Protect the lives of those around you, and request a locate.



Make the Call

You can have underground utilities located, for FREE, with one quick call to the Utilities Underground Location Center. Simple dial **811** or **800-424-5555** or visit www.callbeforeyoudig.org.









You will be asked for the address where the work is taking place; a description of the work being done; the area where the utility lines need to be located; the township section and range if known; and the date the work will be taking place.



During your call, you will be given a tracking number for your locate request, keep this number. The utility companies that could have lines impacted by your work will be notified by the call center. You will also be notified if the utility lines will not be marked within two days of your project start date.

Color Codes

The utilities will be identified by painted marks or flags within twenty-four inches on either side of the utility line.

	Electric
	Gas, Oil, Fuel
	Cable TV, Telephone
	Drinking Water
	Sewer
	Non-Drinking Water
	Survey Marks
	Excavator Marks

Pipeline Damage

If you strike a pipeline, immediately notify the pipeline operator, even if the damage seems minor. Such as a small scrape or dent. Seemingly insignificant damage to the pipe's protective coating can lead to serious problems later.

Recognizing a Leak

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless substance. Because natural gas cannot be detected on its own, an odorant is added to help consumers smell gas. These signs may also indicate a natural gas leak: a hissing sound; dust, water or vegetation blowing around pipeline; or discolored or dead vegetation around pipeline.

Report a Problem

If you encounter a problem with a utility locate, the commission can assist you.

If your locate doesn't happen, is late, inadequate, or inaccurate – please call the commission toll free at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

